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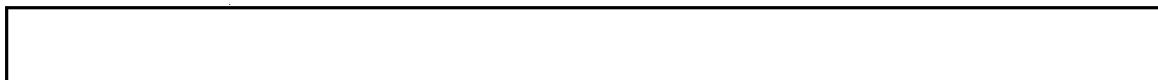
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

21 January 1960

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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

OK

USSR: Nikolay Belyayev, removed as party boss of Soviet Kazakhstan ostensibly for mismanagement in agriculture, may also have lost his membership in the top-ranking all-union party presidium. Belyayev's demotion is in line with several recent indications that Khrushchev, dissatisfied with some of his lieutenants, has been shaking up his staff. He now may find it expedient to bring some new faces into its ranks. [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 1)

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[redacted]

II. ASIA-AFRICA

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[redacted]

i

[redacted]

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South Korea: [Syngman Rhee's opponent in presidential elections this spring, Cho Pyong-ok of the opposition Democratic party, has decided not to campaign.]

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No
The Democratic vice-presidential candidate, incumbent Chang Myon, could become the party presidential candidate if Cho withdraws. However, he may remain in second place in the belief that he would win again against Assembly Speaker Yi Ki-pung and thus have a better chance for ultimately succeeding to the presidency.]

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Watch Committee Conclusions: [The following developments are susceptible of direct exploitation by Soviet/Communist hostile action which could jeopardize the security of the US in the immediate future.]

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No
[Within and without Iraq, political groups continue to maneuver for power, and an attempt to assassinate Qasim could occur at any time.]

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No

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OK

Belgian Congo: Intermittent tribal warfare in the Congo interior has led to the proclamation of a state of emergency in the Luluabourg area, where over 110 Africans have been killed in the past three months. Belgian authorities have refused to recognize an agreement between two warring tribes, under which one of the two agreed to evacuate some 100,000 persons from disputed land. Although local security forces are attempting to disarm the opposing tribesmen prior to any new outbreaks, the intervention of Belgian authorities in the dispute may have compromised their status as mediators. During the current round-table talks with Congolese nationalists in Brussels, Belgian spokesmen may cite such violence as demonstrating a need for Belgian security forces even after a grant of autonomy.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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III. THE WEST

[redacted]

NO

[redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

iii

[redacted]
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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Khrushchev Realigns Top Command

The firing of party presidium member Nikolay Belyayev on 19 January as party chief in Kazakhstan is the latest of recent signs of a significant reshuffling of Khrushchev's top command. The circle of top leaders around Khrushchev now is smaller than at any time since he consolidated his power. In view of the complex tasks facing the Soviet leadership, Khrushchev may soon find it expedient to bring some new faces into the ranks of his top advisers.

At the party central committee meeting in December, Khrushchev charged Belyayev with poor leadership in organizing the harvest in Kazakhstan and accused him of "lacking the courage" to admit his errors. Factional infighting might also have been involved. Nikolay Rodionov, former party chief in Leningrad and a protégé of presidium member Premier Frol Kozlov, was named second secretary in the Kazakh party shuffle, suggesting that Kozlov had a hand in Belyayev's downfall. Dinmukhamed Kunayev, Kazakh premier, replaced Belyayev as first secretary. The Soviet announcement made no mention of a new post for Belyayev, probably indicating that he is not to be given an important job.

Belyayev's ouster follows the demotion last week of presidium member Aleksey Kirichenko, who had been second-in-command in the professional party machine, to party chief in Rostov Oblast. While events of the past few weeks have not reflected adversely on other members of the presidium, Nikolay Shvernik, 72, who is frequently sick, and Otto Kuusinen, 78, have apparently had little real influence for quite some time. Candidate member Yan Kalnberzin's transfer in November 1959 from Latvian party chief to the ceremonial post of chairman of the presidium of the Latvian Supreme Soviet signaled his loss of status.

The recent demotions of Belyayev and Kirichenko obviously affect the balance of forces on the presidium, and a new period of maneuvering among Khrushchev's lieutenants is likely.

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Opposition Candidate May Withdraw From South Korean
Presidential Election

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[Syngman Rhee's opponent in South Korea's presidential election this spring, Cho Pyong-ok of the Democratic party, may be forced to withdraw from the race for reasons of health.]

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25X6 Since there is no other opposition leader of Cho's political stature, his withdrawal would facilitate Rhee's re-election and enable the administration to make less use of repressive and illegal election tactics.]

[The Democratic vice-presidential candidate, incumbent Chang Myon, may become his party's presidential nominee if Cho withdraws. However, he may remain in second place in the belief that he would win again against National Assembly Speaker Yi Ki-pung and that this would give him the best chance for ultimately succeeding 84-year-old President Rhee. The death of the popular Democratic presidential candidate on the eve of the 1956 election generated wide popular sympathy for the party and contributed to Chang's election as vice president that year.]

[If Chang remains a candidate for the vice presidency, the administration may increase its pressures for a constitutional amendment stipulating that the president and vice president must belong to the same party. Such an amendment, if passed prior to the election, would assure the election of Rhee's relatively unpopular running mate.]

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25X1 Chang appears to have considerably less popular support than Cho and lacks his political courage. Many of Cho's followers might withdraw from the party rather than accept Chang's leadership.]

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